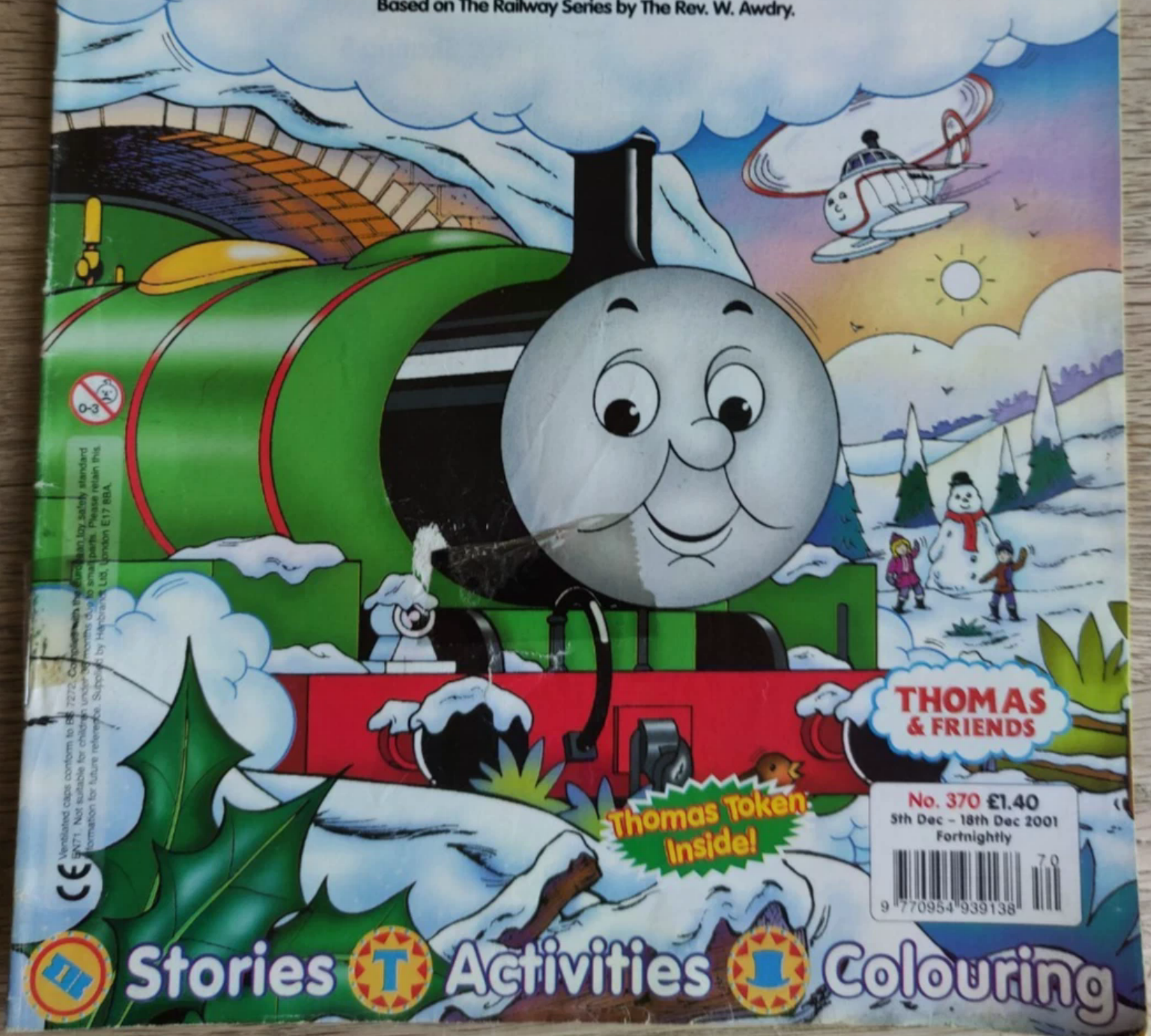
Free Mini Felt Pens!

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



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Fortnightly
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Stories Activities Colouring

Really Useful Reading with...

THOMAS & FRIENDS

Welcome

... to the world of Thomas and his friends. Thomas is ready to take your child on a special journey of learning and discovery.

Stories and activities involving all your child's favourite Thomas characters encourage active reading and participation, stimulate the imagination and teach basic moral and social issues.

All of the elements in this magazine are based on the findings of academic research.

3. **Eye-in-the-Sky**
a story to read

8. **Look and See!**
things to spot in a big picture

10. **Skating Show**
a rebus picture story

12. **Colouring Page**
brighten the picture with your pens

14. **Story Puzzle**
tell the story in the right order

16. **Poster**
a picture to pull out and keep

18. **Diesel's Ditch**
a rhyming story

22. **A Day in the Life of ...**
a typical day for Terence

24. **Pulling the Post**
a bedtime story

28. **Dot to Dot**
join the dots to see the picture

30. **Sodor Mail**
your letters, photos and drawings

ABC

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GULLANE

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends

A BRITT ALLCROFT COMPANY PRODUCTION

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev W. Awdry

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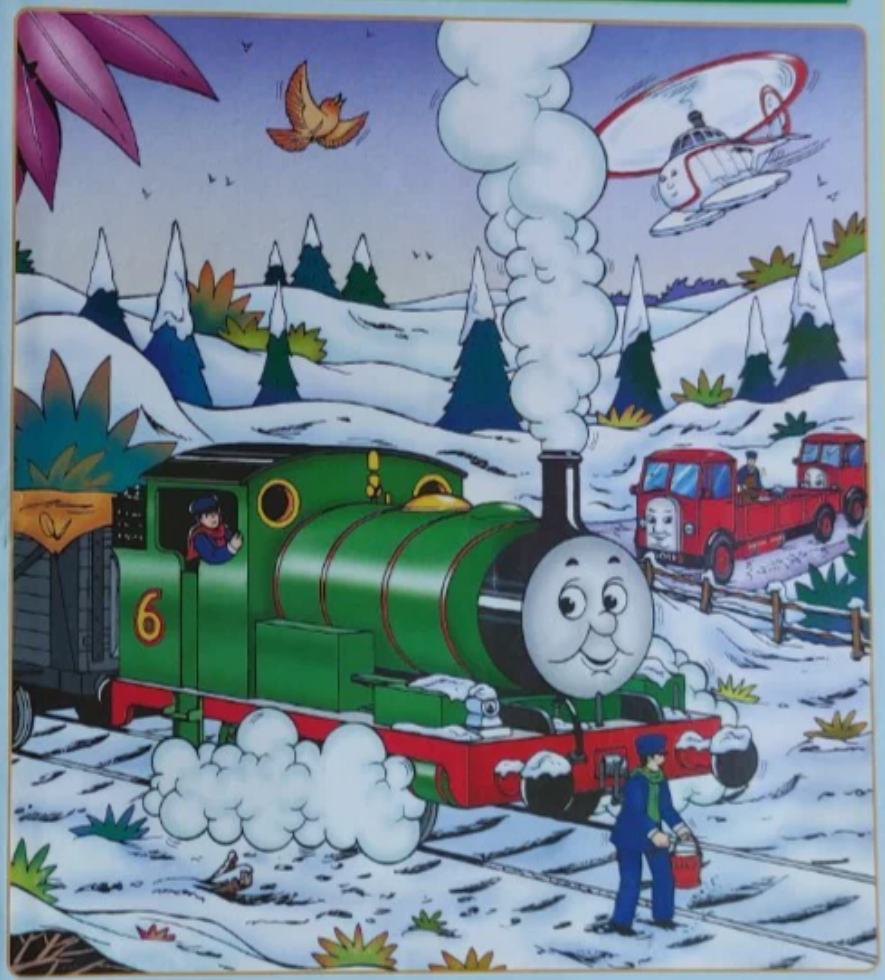
fun to read together

Eye-in-the-Sky



1. Thick snow had turned the Island of Sodor into a winter wonderland. While Percy helped out on Thomas' branch line, he passed Lorry 1 and Lorry 2 busily gritting the roads.

2. Soon Percy reached an icy section of track. His driver put sand on the line so the engine's wheels could grip the slippery rails. Then Harold the Helicopter whirled towards him.

3. "Keep puffing, Percy!" he teased. "Being airborne is the easiest way to get about. It's my job to report by radio which roads are cut off so the Lorries can help to clear them!"

4. "It's lucky I have my big, whirly blades!" boasted hovering Harold. "What could be more important than being an eye-in-the-sky, like me?" "I'm just as busy," insisted Percy.

5. "Thomas went out early to clear his branch line with a snowplough," he told Harold. "My task is to fetch lots of party goods to help everyone enjoy themselves at Christmas time."

6. "Yes, I'm being Really Useful!" added Percy. Harold laughed cheekily and quickly flew away. His spinning blades left the engine spluttering in a cold cloud of swirling snow.

7. Percy was still fuming while his truck was being loaded with all the party goods, in a factory siding. It had started to snow heavily again. "I must get through," thought Percy.

8. But, on the return journey, thick snow blew into his eyes and he could barely see where he was going. His driver was worried. "We'll shelter until this blizzard ends," he said.

9. Percy turned onto an old, disused loopline and rolled inside a nearby tunnel. "We'll be on our way again in no time," called his driver. But the snowstorm got worse and worse.

10. Suddenly, there was a snowslide. WHUMP! "Oh, no! The tunnel's blocked at both ends!" the driver shouted in alarm. "We're trapped!" gasped Percy. "We could be stuck in here for days!"

11. His driver spotted an air shaft in the tunnel roof. But it was much too high and narrow for him to climb. Percy remembered there were boxes of balloons among the party supplies.

12. "We can use them to send out a signal!" he said. The crew soon blew up some balloons. Then Percy puffed with his funnel to help blow them up the air shaft and out into the sky.

13. By now it had stopped snowing and Harold was on patrol again. He couldn't believe it when he spotted the brightly-coloured balloons rising from the snow-covered railway tunnel.

14. Harold radioed the Fat Controller and Percy was rescued. "I'm very glad Harold's an eye-in-the sky!" he said. "These balloons look like I'm having a party in the sky!" laughed Harold.

The End

Look and See!

1. What are the children building?
2. How many deer are there?
3. What is Thomas doing?
4. What colour is the driver's scarf?

Winter break is so much fun!
Look at the picture, what can you see?

ANSWERS: 1. a snowman. 2. two. 3. ploughing snow. 4. green.

rebus story

Skating Show!

Trace over the words below. Then read the story, when you see a picture say the word!

The words made into pictures are...

Thomas

snowplough

blizzard

passengers

rink

skates

watertower

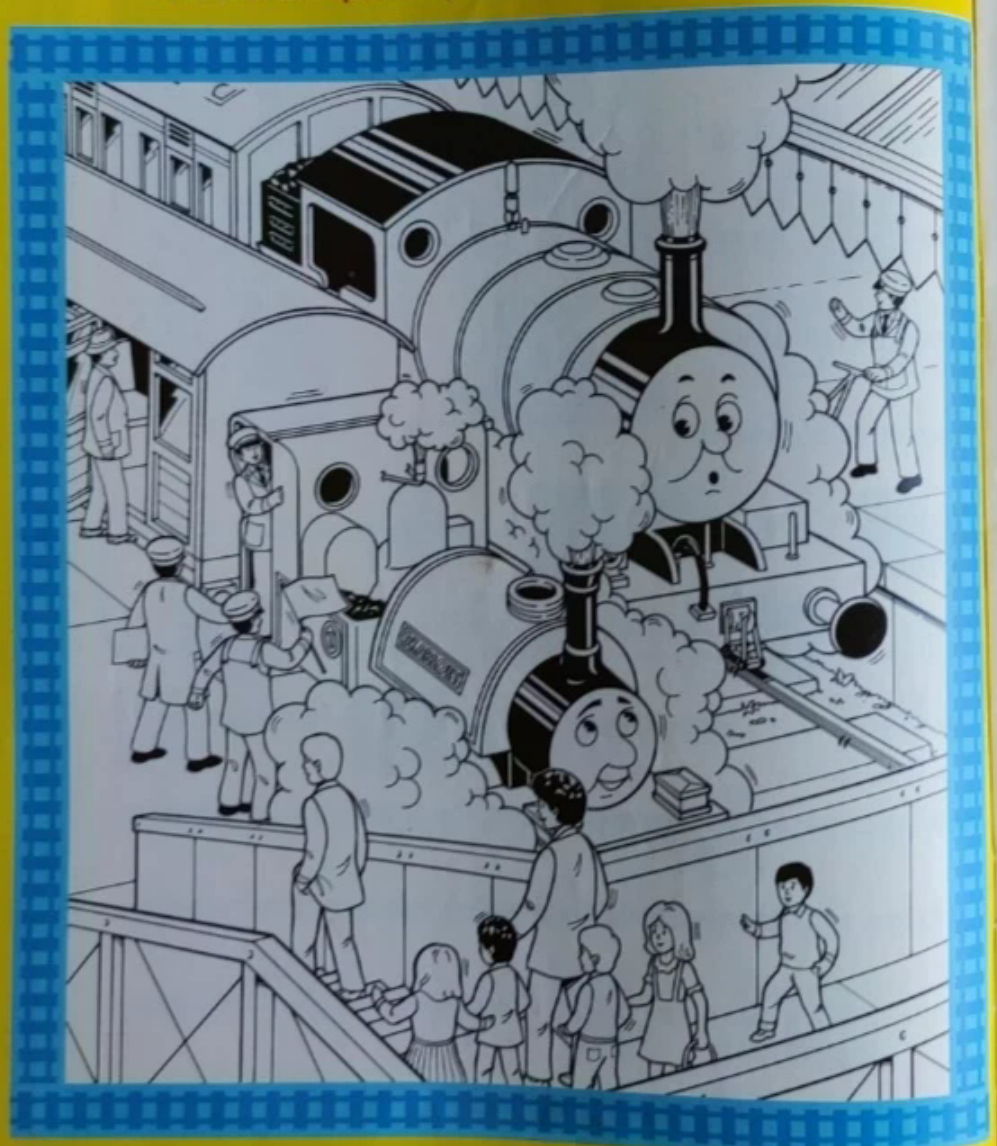
children

used his to help him steam through a until he reached Elsbridge Station. Among his , Lady Hatt was taking her grandchildren, Stephen and Bridget, to a new, indoor ice-skating . Carrying their , the waved goodbye to who puffed on his way. Later, he had to go and fetch them from the ice . "You should have seen us," smiled Bridget. "I wish I had," said . "We went almost as fast as you," joked Stephen, "without a too!" By now, the had stopped but it was still very cold. When returned to the Main Station with his , he saw The Fat Controller looking worried. "The has leaked and now there's ice all over the ground!" he said. The engines had finished work for the day so Stephen and Bridget had an idea. Their grandfather agreed and the put on their . Then they slid onto the ice to perform a special show for . "You can watch us skating, after all," smiled Bridget.

The End

Colouring Fun

Colour in this splendid picture with your brightest pens.



Day out with Thomas

Don't miss the next Thomas day out nearest you!

December 8-9	Buckinghamshire Railway (Quainton, Bucks) Tel: (0113) 2710320
December 8-9	Telford Steam Railway (Nr Wolverhampton) Tel: (07765) 858348
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December 22-23	Didcot Railway (Oxon) Tel: (01235) 817200
December 26 -Jan 6	Eastleigh Lakeside Railway (Swanage, Dorset) Tel: (02380) 636612

Please note: Some of the above railway telephone numbers may be a talking timetable or may require you to leave a message.

Day out with Thomas hotline
Tel: (0870) 2412532

www.thomasthetankengine.com

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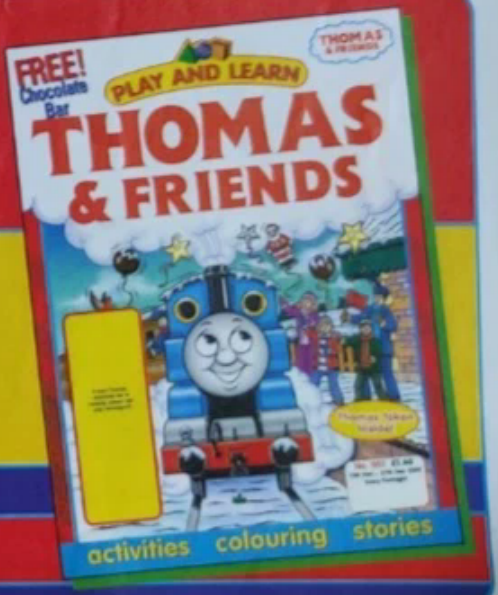
THOMAS & FRIENDS

Don't miss the new Play and Learn Thomas & Friends!

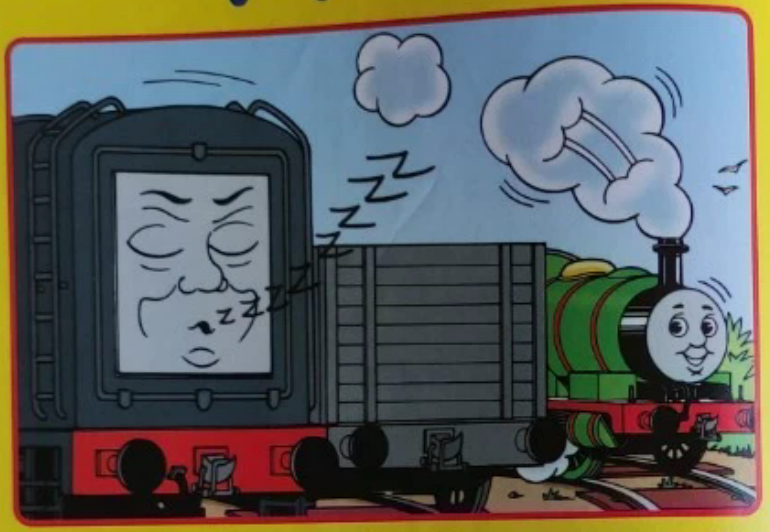
Packed full of activities, games and puzzles!

On sale every fortnight.



Story puzzle

1



Percy saw Diesel sleeping. "I'll give him a scare!" he chuckled.

3

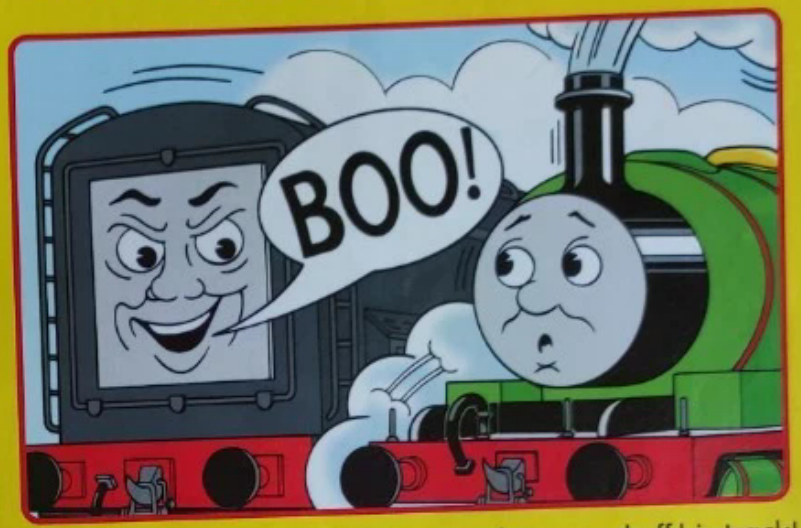
But Diesel saw Percy coming and was ready for him.

The right order is ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

answer: 1, 3, 2, 4

Write the numbers of these pictures below to show which order they should go in. Then tell the story yourself.

2



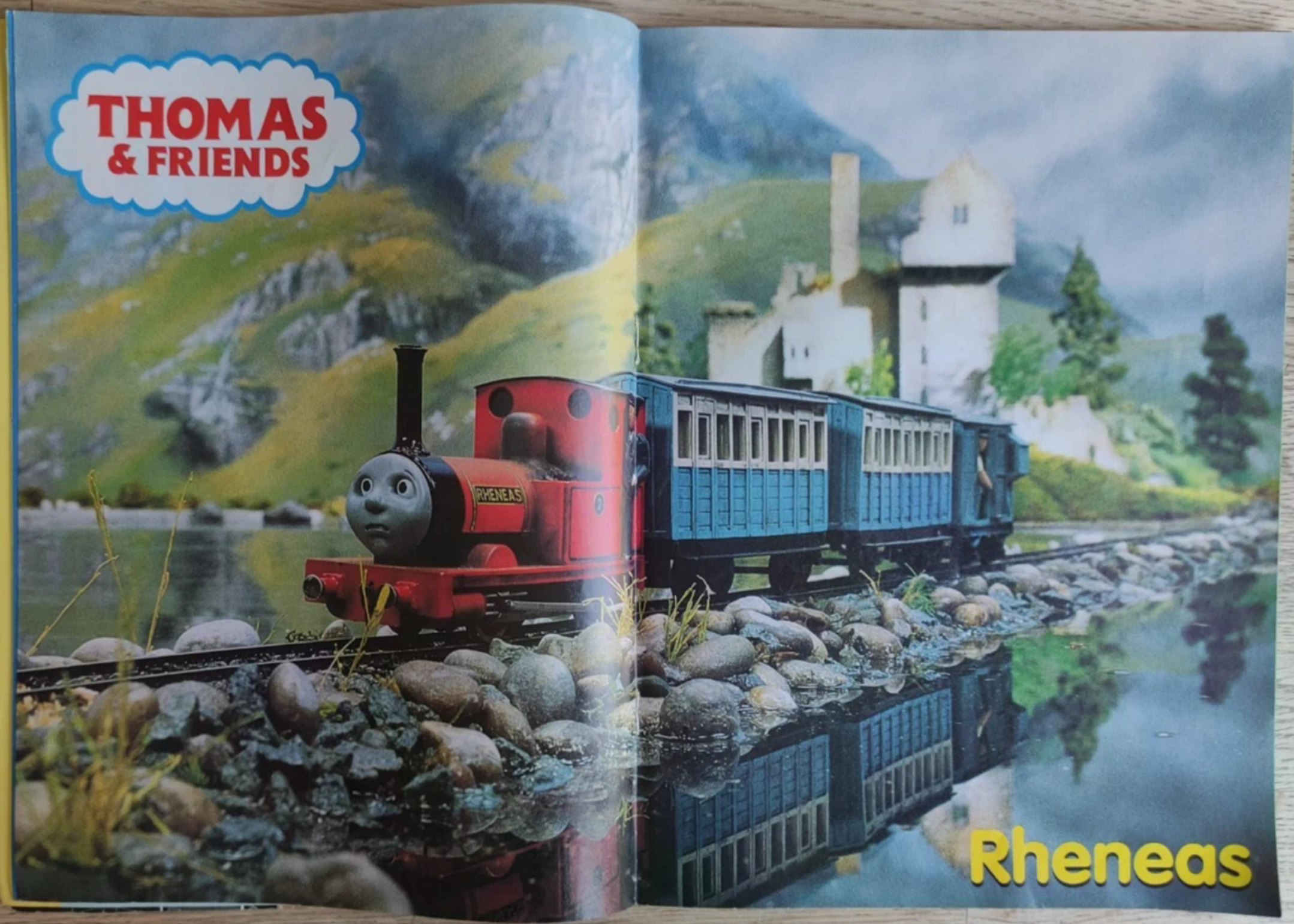
"BOO!" he shouted. Poor Percy nearly jumped off his track!

4

Diesel nudged Percy. "Ha ! That will teach you to sneak around!"

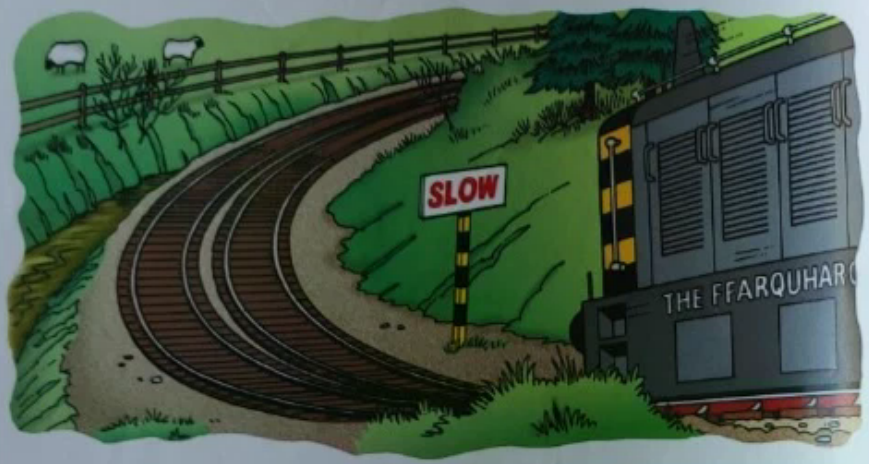
Who frightened Percy? ☐

answer: Diesel


THOMAS
& FRIENDS
RHENEAS
Rheneas

Thomas rhyme time

Diesel's Ditch



1. The weather was icy, with snow in the air,
Mavis thought wisely, "I'd better take care."
Down a steep slope lay a fast bend below,
Mavis was worried, a big sign warned 'SLOW'.

2. Next to the bend was a ditch long and wide,
Applying her brakes, Mavis rolled alongside.
Behind her roared Diesel, "I haven't all day,
If you won't get a move on, get out of my way!"

3. "You'll crash in the ditch if you travel too fast,"
Mavis warned Diesel, who pulled up at last.
"That pothole!" he sneered. "It doesn't scare me!
If you weren't so nervous, I'd go speedily!"

4. That's what he did next time he was there,
A deep freeze had left snow and ice everywhere.
Downhill raced Diesel, his wheels left the track,
He fell in the ditch and rolled onto his back.

5. The snow broke his fall as he slid to a halt,
Mavis arrived and called: "That's your fault!"
When Diesel was lifted out with a crane,
He promised he'd not be so foolish again!

the end

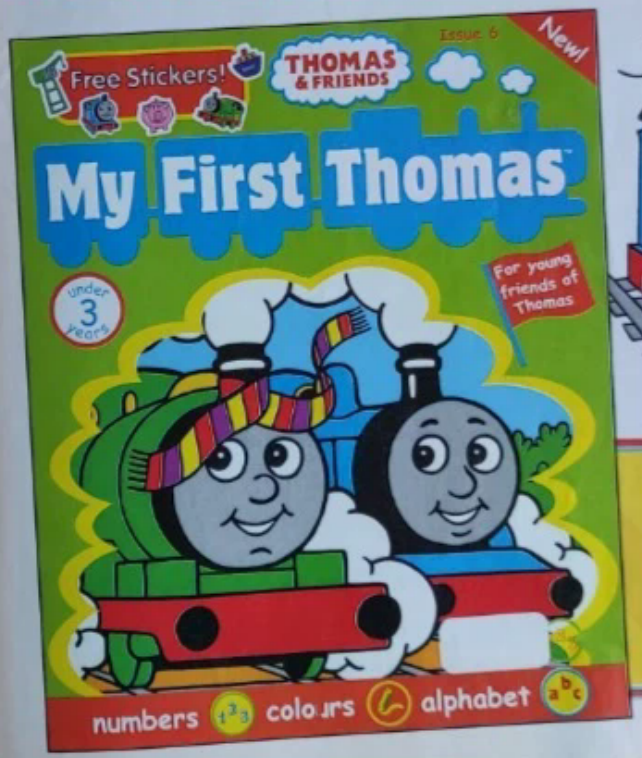
In all good newsagents and supermarkets from **21st November**

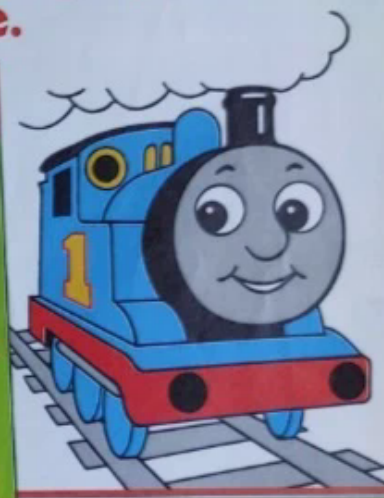
£1.50

THOMAS & FRIENDS

My First Thomas™

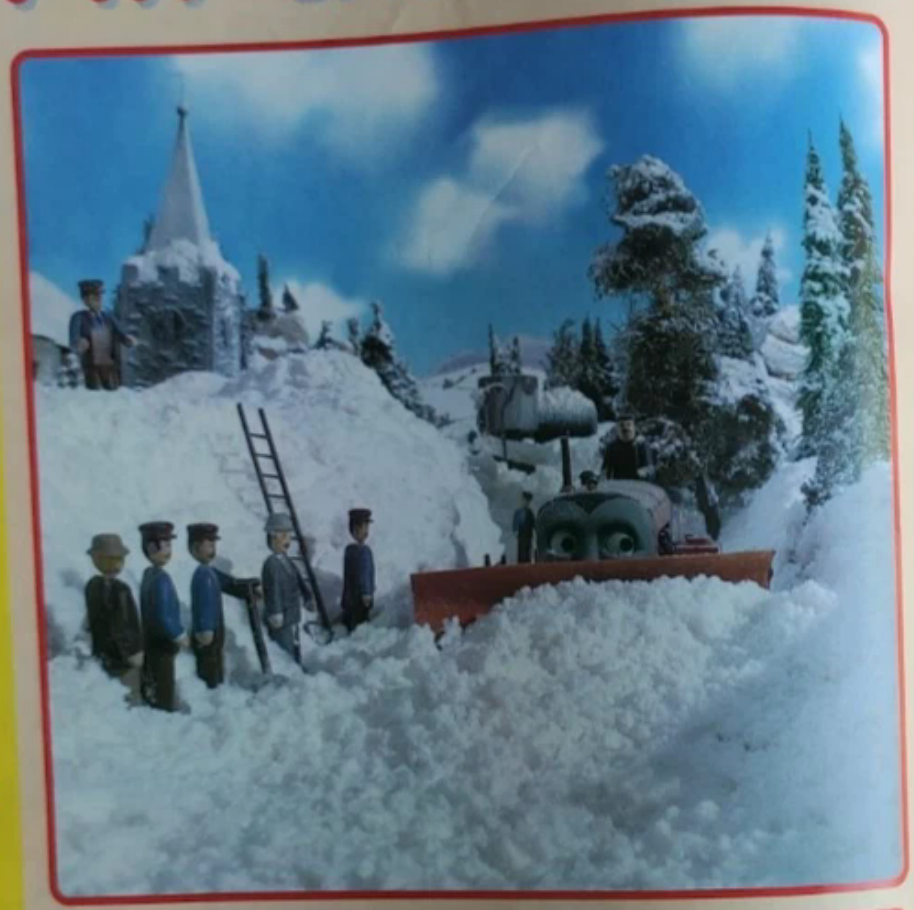
**Peep! Peep! Young friends of Thomas,
Are in for a splendid ride.
There's a new Thomas magazine,
Packed full of fun inside.**



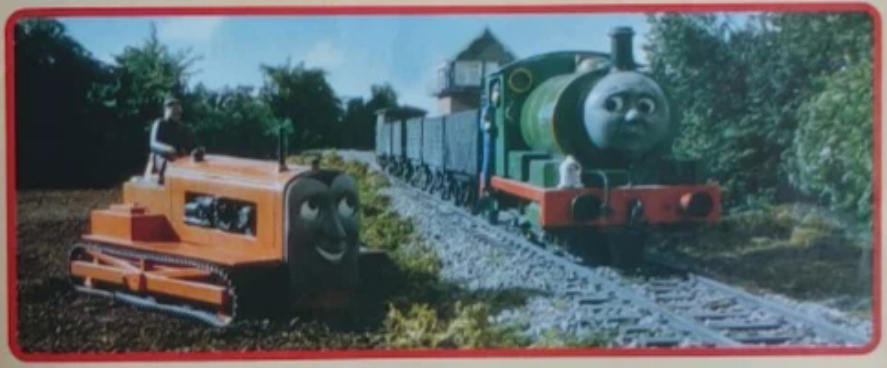


colouring pages
rhyming stories
number rhymes
counting fun

All about Terence



Terence is a good and honest tractor. The engines always tease him because of his caterpillar tracks, but he takes it very well and gets on with his work. He doesn't grumble or complain and he always helps out with a pull when there is an emergency.



Win a model of Terence!

10 lucky readers can win a splendid model of Terence from the Racing Champions engine range. Just tell us:

What kind of engine is Terence?

Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to:

Thomas/370 model competition,
Egmont Magazines Ltd.,
PO BOX 51,
Erith DA8 1WD.

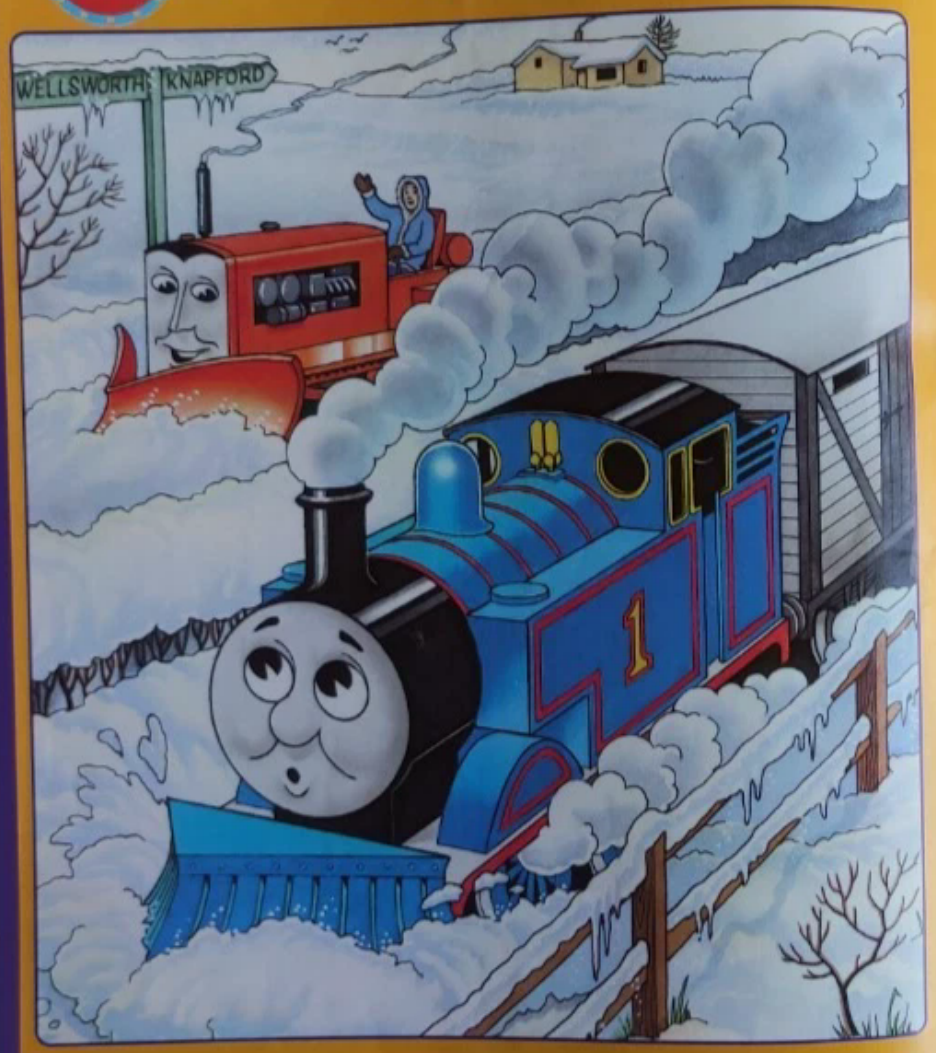
Closing date:
21st December, 2001

ERTL RACING CHAMPIONS

Terms and Conditions: The competition is open to all Thomas and Friends readers other than employees of participating companies and their immediate families. Please obtain permission from a parent or guardian before entering this competition. Entries are restricted to one winner per household. We cannot accept responsibility for any entries that are lost, delayed or damaged in the post. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery. No proof of purchase is necessary. All entries will be entered into a prize draw, where the first 10 entries drawn with the correct answers will be awarded with a model from the Racing Champions engine range. No cash alternatives will be offered. The prize draw will supervised by an independent person. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The closing date for all entries is 21st December, 2001. Winners will be notified by post one calendar month after this date. For a list of winners, write to the address above and mark your envelope 'Thomas model competition - issue 370'. This competition has been arranged by Egmont Magazines and Racing Champions.

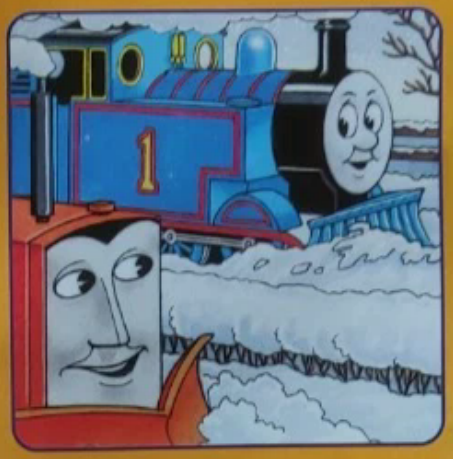
percy's bedtime story

Pulling the Post

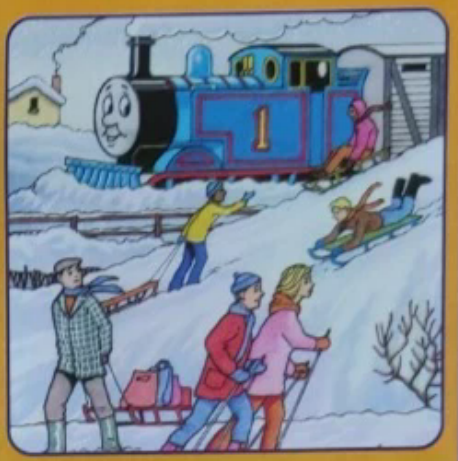


1. It was freezing cold, with ice and snow everywhere. Thomas was glad to feel the warmth of his boiler. But, before he could begin work, he had to be fitted with a snowplough.

2. Thomas steamed carefully on his way. He needed to puff really hard to push the thick drifts of snow off the track. Shortly, he met Terence the Tractor who was clearing a road.

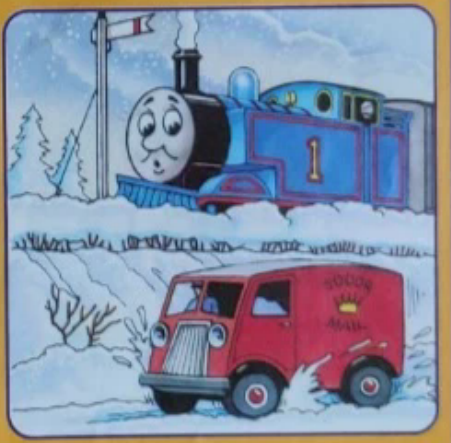


3. The tractor had a snowplough too. "I've been up since dawn," he told Thomas, wearily. "I've cleared the main road into Wellsworth!" "I must get to the station," replied Thomas.



4. When he finally arrived, he saw some children riding on sledges in Wellsworth park. A man carried his shopping on a sledge, too, and other people even used skis to get about.

5. Thomas' truck was quickly loaded with all kinds of sledges, built at a local factory. He had to deliver them along his line. "Everyone will need a sledge today!" smiled Thomas.



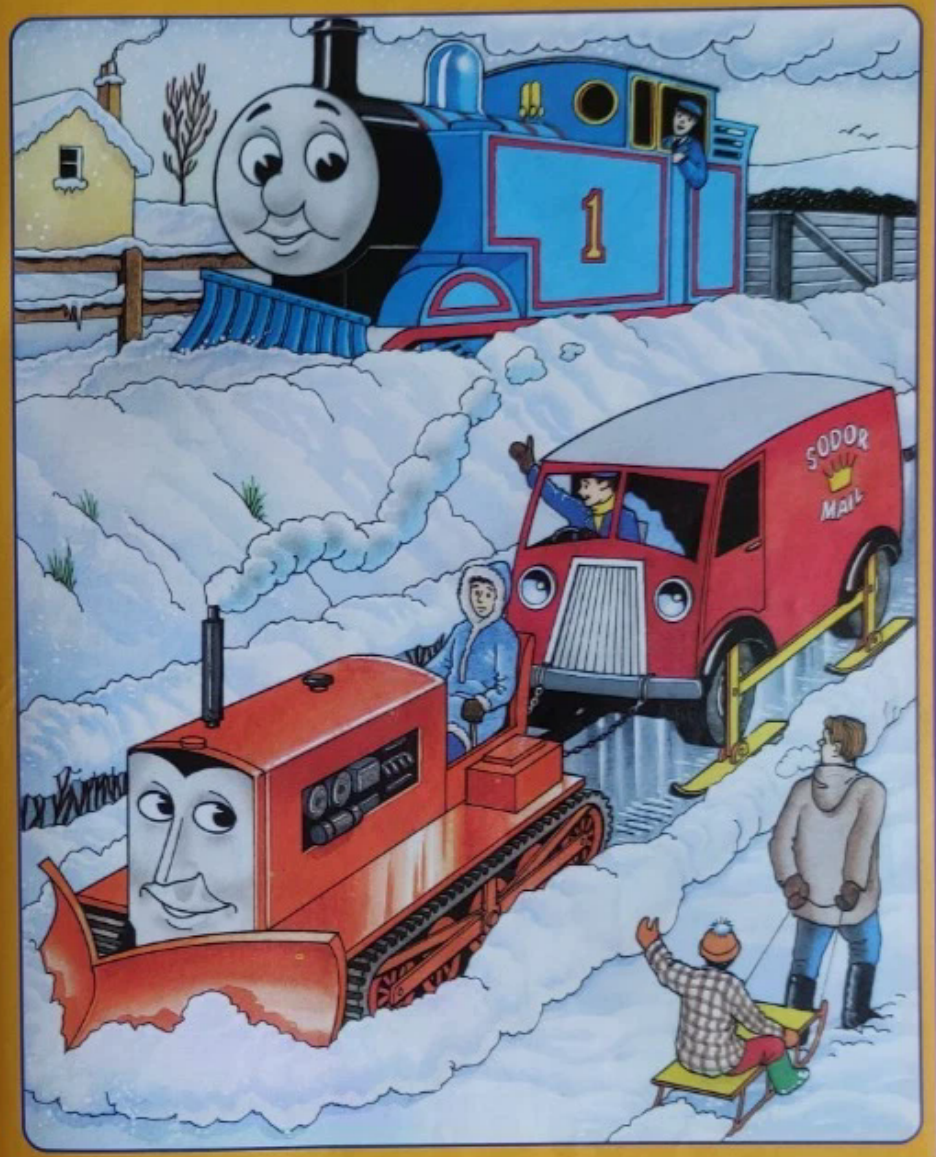
6. Later, as the little tank engine waited at a signal, Tom Tipper drove past very slowly in the Sodor mail van. Its wheels kept spinning on the snow. "I can hardly move!" said Tom.

7. Then the mail van skidded into a snowdrift. WHUMP! Luckily, Tom had a shovel so he started to dig his van out. "At this rate, I'll never get all the post delivered!" he sighed.

8. "With Christmas coming, I've lots of extra letters and parcels," Tom added. "Oh, dear!" chuffed Thomas, setting off again. "Terence can't clear every road for the mail van!"

9. That night, in the engine shed, Thomas couldn't sleep. Outside, more snow fell silently. "It will make Tom's job even harder," he thought. "There must be a way to help him!"

10. Next morning, people were using sledges everywhere. Thomas had an idea. He told The Fat Controller who arranged for Tom's mail van to go to the Works aboard Thomas's flat truck.



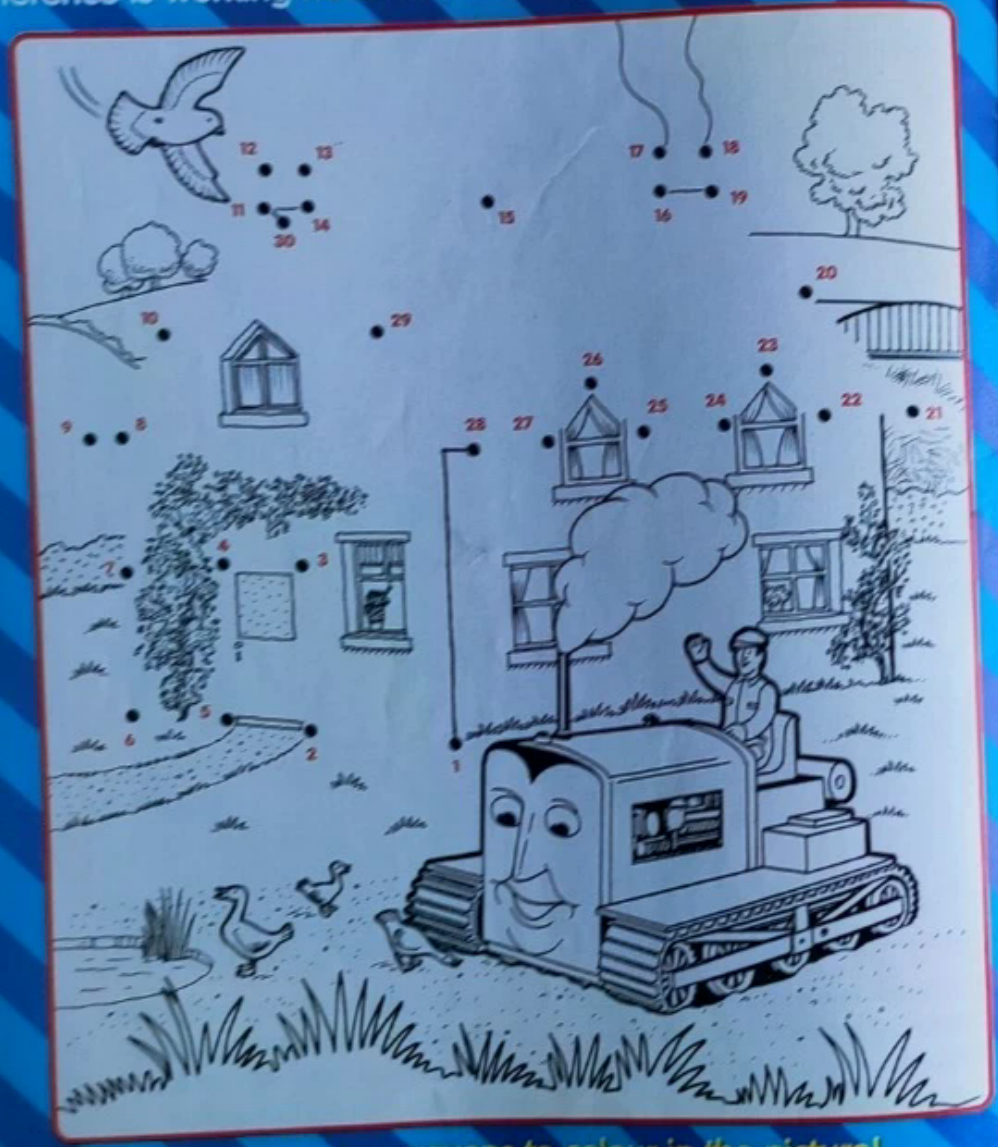
11. The engineers made some special skis for the mail van's wheels. Then Terence turned up to pull it along. "You can slip and slide as much as you like now, Tom," smiled Thomas.

12. "I won't, thanks to my Really Useful caterpillar treads," called Terence. "You're safe with me! The post must get through!" "Make way for the Sodor Mail sledge!" laughed Tom.

The End

Dot to Dot!

Terence is working hard. What can you see in the farm yard?



Now use your crayons to colour in the picture!

Win!

Thomas Playsets!

Heart Character Toys are giving away 6 of these great Thomas playsets! These great playsets have sound effects and also include Thomas and Harold. For a chance to win a playset, just answer this question:

What are the names of The Fat Controller's grandchildren?

Write your answer on a postcard along with your name and address and send it to:

Thomas and Friends #370 competition,
Heart Character Toys,
37A High Street,
Walsall Wood,
West Midlands,
WS9 9LR

Heart Character Toys stock over 250 Thomas products in their mail order catalogue. For your free copy, call 01543 377182, quoting reference 370 or write to them at the competition address above.

Closing date 21st December 2001

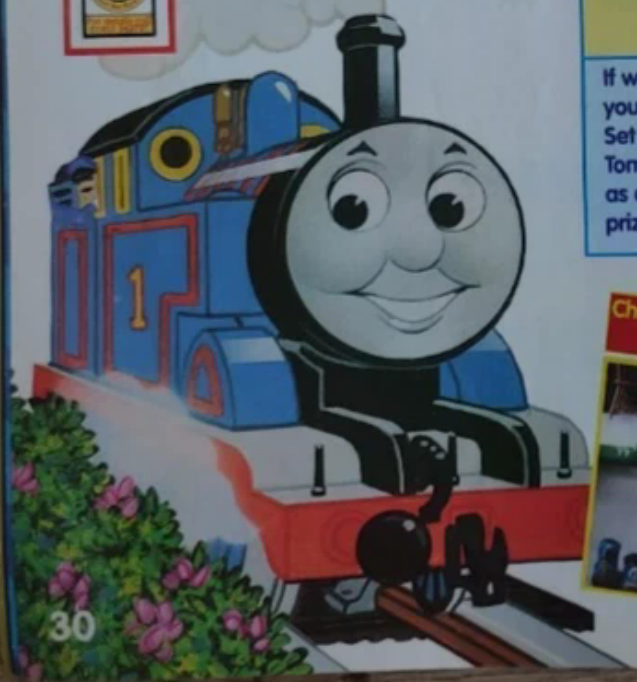
Terms and Conditions: The competition is open to all Thomas and Friends readers other than employees of Egmont Magazines, their agents, families or anyone professionally connected with the competition. If you are under sixteen, please obtain permission from a parent or guardian before entering this competition. Entries are restricted to one winner per household. We cannot accept responsibility for any entries that are lost, delayed or damaged in the post. Proof of posting will not be accepted as proof of delivery. All entries will be entered into a prize draw, where the first six entries drawn with the correct answers will be rewarded with Thomas Playset. No cash alternative will be offered. The prize draw will be supervised by an independent person. The editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The closing date for receipt of all entries is 21st December 2001. Winners will be notified by post one calendar month after this date. For a list of winners, write to the address above and mark your envelope 'Heart Character Toys competition # 370'. This competition has been arranged by Egmont Magazines on behalf of the Promoter, Heart Character Toys, 37a High Street, Walsall Wood, West Midlands WS9 9LR.

Sodor mail

Please send your letters, pictures and drawings to Sodor Mail, Egmont Magazines, 25/31 Tavistock Place, London WC1H 9SF

Thomas Token

Ask an adult to cut out the token for you!



Star Poem

Jack Baker, aged 2, wrote this poem!

Thomas is my number one,
I like to watch him go,
up and down his branchline,
Annie and Clarabel are in tow.

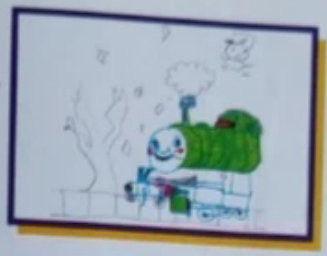
Gordon, he's my second best,
He speeds along the track,
Picking up the passengers,
and taking them all back!

If we print your Star letter or rhyme, you will receive a Thomas Starter Set from Tomy as a prize!

Christopher Thomas, aged 2.

Benjamin Robinson, aged 4.

Here's a great picture of Percy, by Drew Watts, aged 7.



Look, it's James! This picture was drawn by Ryan Stockhill, aged 5.

A splendid picture of Thomas, by Harry Jones, aged 5.

Anyone who has a drawing printed on this page will win a Thomas and the Windy Day book from Egmont Children's Books.

Happy birthday!

To

Luke Mullins, aged 7.
Gianluc Lui, aged 5.
Sophie Earle, aged 3.
Janis Kelly, aged 4.
Daniel Tremoleiro, aged 4.
Luke Harding, aged 5.
Ben Harrington, aged 5.
Thomas Christie, aged 5.
Thomas Deal, aged 4.
Thomas Williams, aged 2.
Lewis Palmer, aged 3.
James Palmer, aged 4.
Montague Teeder, aged 3.
Daniel Burrell, aged 6.
Liam Burrell, aged 2.
Tasmin Reader, aged 4.

Remember to send in your details 4 months before your birthday to be sure it will be printed on time.

We regret, we cannot guarantee your mention.

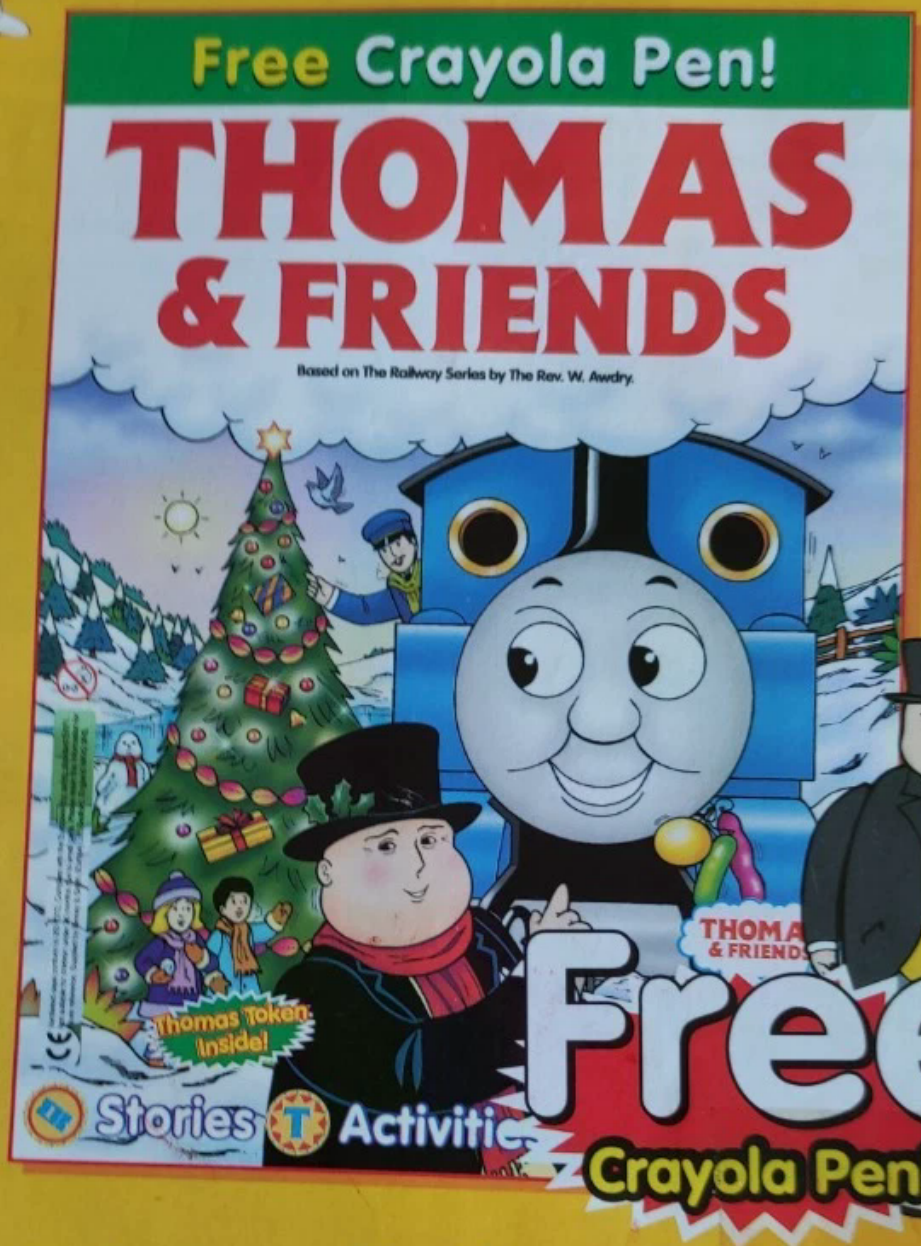
Ross Miller, aged 4.

Jon Louis Gainsford, aged 2.

Thomas Delaney, aged 4.

Jonathan Morris, aged 2.

Next issue!



Stories to read • Rhymes and songs
Puzzles and activities • Prizes to win
Plus a Thomas token to collect!

Issue 371 on sale from 19th December 2001!